

WELCOME  
BOUNTIFUL BEAUTIFUL AUTUMN

# THE KALIFORNSKI



NEWSLETTER OF THE SLAVIC-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.  
P.O. BOX 226, WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95077  
(A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)

EDITORS:  
Agnes Gospodnetić Mifsud  
Nina Matulich



AUTUMN 2008







## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone!



We had a great time at the BBQ Picnic on Sunday, July 6, 2008 at the Padres Park in Corralitos!! A total of 355 were served which included 5 scholarship recipients, 9 parents of the recipients, and 9 musicians. The food was fabulous thanks to Peter Kovacich and his crew, and to the Novi Stari Tamburiza (Caroline Bahr) played great music. This was an all around fantastic event make possible by all who attended. Thanks!

Thanks to all the helpers – Nina Matulich on reservations, Mary Marinovich Siefke – on drink tickets, Helen Marinovich Ukestad and Norma Hansen – on raffle tickets, cake serving and decorations, Agnes Gospodnetić Mifsud and Barbara Gospodnetich Rudisill, and on door table help, Linda Wathen Espejo. The raffle helpers calling out the numbers were Michelle Keller, Troy and Bryan Rudisill. And of course, more thanks to the bartenders for keeping the liquids flowing – John Vodanovich and Michael Selak.

Hope to see everyone at our next event which is our Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 13, 2008, at the Watsonville Women's Club for another great time. Thank you,

STEVE BELICK

## S.A.C.O. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ~ STEVE BELICK ~ 477-7523  
VICE-PRESIDENT ~ PETER KOVACICH ~ 724-0071  
TREASURER ~ JO FRANICH PUHERA ~ 724-8930  
RECORDING SECRETARY ~ LINDA WATHEN ESPEJO ~ 724-2892  
FINANCIAL/CORRESPONDING SECRETARY ~ NINA MATULICH ~ 724-7971



## WELCOME NEW S.A.C.O. MEMBERS!

Bob & Kathy Kovacich Ceremsak ~ Hillsborough, CA.  
Sandy J. Jurach ~ Watsonville, CA.  
Bradford & Susan K. Bennett ~ Salinas, CA.  
Joe & Mary Arnerich Andrade ~ Hollister, CA.

## IN MEMORIUM

Patricia Borcovich Del Piero  
81 years ~ August 5, 2008 ~ Watsonville, CA.  
Wife of Richard  
Mother of Kris, Eric and Marc



## COMING EVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2008 ~ Saturday ~ Christmas Dinner







## DESSERTS

Sharon Alaga  
Mary Basich  
Karen Belick  
Ann Vulich Cernokus  
Kathryn Zar Copriviza  
Teresa Del Piero  
Jacqueline Zadravec  
Ann Banovac Moresco  
Frances Matulich Osorio  
Norma Hansen  
Genevieve Simunovich  
Jane Moncovich Moresco

Cathy Pekoch Moresco  
Lillian Jercich Nielsen  
Georgia Ivelich O'Hoppe  
Jo Franich Puhera  
Barbara Gospodnetich Rudisill  
Christina Justus-Garcia  
Susan Gospodnetich Keller  
Mary Marinovich Siefke  
Patricia Gospodnetich Solano  
Helen Marinovich Ukestad  
Maryann Ivelich Kristich  
Annemarie Pavlovich Dugger

Ann Gizdich  
Lucille Deretich  
Angie Atkins  
Betty Jones  
S.A.C.O.  
Twoanna Gross  
Judy Hager  
Suke Pavlovich  
Barbara Guinn  
Gladys Rodrigues  
Janey Leonardich  
Mary Lipanovich

## PRIZES



Patricia Alaga  
Sharon Alaga  
Alice Bankhead  
Steve Belick  
Betty Kesovia  
Frances Davis  
Eric Del Piero  
Thelma Dorey  
Jim Dutra (strawberries)  
Judy Eiskamp  
Christina Justus-Garcia  
Nita Korach Gizdich

Gary Gospodnetich  
Barbara Guinn  
Jacqueline Zadravec  
Geri Derpich Heebner  
Nina Matulich  
Luann Copriviza Niebling  
Lillian Jercich Nielsen  
Frances Matulich Osorio  
Alex Solano (berries)  
Linda Pavlovich (berries)  
Genevieve Simunovich  
Helen Marinovich Ukestad

Suke Pavlovich  
Jan Skillicorn  
Betty Jones  
Peter Harris  
Edie Stene  
Ted Nizenkoff  
Diane Robey  
S.A.C.O.  
Frank Sieraski  
Carl Watkins  
Norma Hansen  
Joyce Kalich



## 2008 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### WATSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Sarah Kulich ~ Going to Cal Poly  
Parents: Patty & Tony Kulich

Wildcat Mascot

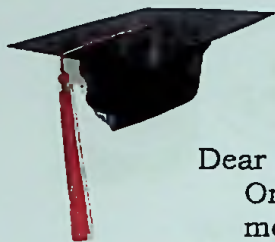


Luke Scurich ~ Going to Cal Poly  
Parents: Mike & Jennifer Scurich  
Grandparents: Luke & Susan Scurich & Jodie Ruso

Scott Pavlovich ~ Going to Cabrillo College  
Parents: Greg & Suke Pavlovich  
Grandmother: Janet Meidl







Dear Members of the Scholarship Committee,

Once again I would like to thank you for your generous scholarship; the money is greatly appreciated and will help me a lot. Enclosed is a copy of my class schedule for the fall of 2008 term at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo.  
Thank you, SARAH KULICH

Dear S.A.C.O.,

Thank you for selecting me to receive a scholarship. Being Slavic-American, I feel honored to represent my heritage at a school where few remain. I will use the scholarship money to further my education at Cal Poly next year.  
Sincerely, LUKE SCURICH

Dear S.A.C.O.,

I genuinely appreciate receiving the SACO scholarship. This financial gift will greatly help further my education starting at Cabrillo College. I am extremely proud of my Croatian heritage, and will make the members of SACO proud of me.  
Sincerely, SCOTT PAVLOVICH

#### APTOS HIGH SCHOOL

Ashley K. Domsic ~ Going to Cabrillo College  
Parents: Dennis & Laura Domsic

Jessica Long ~ Going to Sonoma State  
Mother: Patti Long  
Grandmother: Helen Babora McAbee

Tanessa Vavra ~ Going to San Diego Community College  
Parents: Steve & Diane Vavra  
Grandparents: Don & June Matiasovich Melton



Dear Mr. Violich and the Slavic-American Cultural Organization

I just wanted to thank you for your generous scholarship gift. This will help me fund my education at Cabrillo College. My plan is to join the nursing program. Thank you for all your help!  
Sincerely, ASHLEY DOMSIC

Mr. Violich,

Thank you very much for selecting me as one of this year's scholarship recipients. I am very honored to have received this award and am looking forward to starting Sonoma State. Thank you once again for your generosity. It is greatly appreciated!  
Sincerely, JESSICA LONG





Dear S.A.C.O. Foundation,

Thank you, Thank you so much for choosing me as one of the students who were awarded this. I really appreciate this scholarship, this money will really help me succeed in my college career. I feel very honored to have this opportunity to be given this because it has to do with my heritage which I love and learned so much about. So, thank you again.

Sincerely,

Tanessa Vavra

Nina and S.A.C.O. Members,

Great turnout at the picnic. I had fun speaking with the students!

Thanks for your support.

ANTONIO VIOLICH

S.A.C.O. Scholarship Chairman



Bankhead/Registar-Pajaronian  
Scholarship winners

Luke Scurich (from left), Scott Pavlovich, Sarah Kulich, Jessica Long and Ashley Domsic at the annual SACO barbecue.

### CORRESPONDENCE



HVALA PUNO!

Dear Nina, Agnes, Steve, Pete and crew,

What a wonderful picnic! It is always a treat to see family and friends at a SACO picnic. The food is always great, thanks to Pete and his crew. John is so gracious behind the bar. Thanks to all for another memorable party! Love, Chuck & Geri Derpich Heebner

Dear Nina,

I have always enjoyed the SACO picnics. My brother, Peter Kovacich suggested I join. I enclose dues of \$18 for a family membership. Please add me to your roster. I thought Sunday, July 6, 2008 picnic was especially nice.

Sincerely, Kathy Kovacich Ceremsak







Dear Nina & S.A.C.O. members,

Thank you so much for the wonderful picnic last week. It was beautiful weather, wonderful large crowd and a delicious meal. Peter is a fantastic chef! The whole meal was expertly prepared. The food line went so well- you served around 350 people in 20 minutes-really efficient. And your dessert table was unbelievable-so many goodies! S.A.C.O. really knows how to put on a fantastic picnic. We had a wonderful time-the people really enjoyed the music and that made us feel good. We will put you on our calendar for next year - God willing - July 12, 2009. Thank you again. Sincerely, Caroline Bahr & Novi Stori Tamburitza

## Soon to Be Released

### *Blossoms Into Gold: The Croatians in the Pajaro Valley*



For the past five years, my sister Kathryn Mekis Miller and I have been working on a book about the Croatians in the Pajaro Valley. During this time, my husband Morton Marcus (our book editor) and I have visited Dubrovnik and the surrounding region numerous times.

This past June, Mort and I made the trip with the specific purpose of collecting illustrations that we hoped to use for the book. Over the years we have made a number of contacts with historians in Dubrovnik, so I contacted them prior to our trip to let them know which illustrations we were hoping to obtain.

So, this summer was a working vacation. Between days of seaside lounging and dinners with my cousin Nita Gizdich, Mort and I were meeting with historians in the Dubrovnik Archives and completing final interviews.

The Dubrovnik Archives are housed in the Sponza Palace on the Stradun (the main street of old town). It is one of the most important archive collections in the world. Despite fires, earthquakes, takeovers and wars, Dubrovnik has managed to keep their one thousand year-old history intact. The Archives contain over 7,000 books and over 100,000 manuscripts dating as far back as the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

First we met with Kate Bagoje, a friend of John and Jelka Basor, who is an art history professor in Dubrovnik. She took us on our first tour of the Dubrovnik Archives. Because we were working on a book, we were allowed into areas of the archive not open to the public and allowed to see, and photograph, documents that are so precious that they are kept behind closed doors and not allowed on display in museums. After meeting Kate, we met Pave Brailo, a translator and the leading tour guide of the city. Pave made additional introductions at the Archive as well as at the Franciscan and Dominican Monasteries. Since we have been back in Santa Cruz, Pave has continued to help us to secure copies of all of the illustrations we were hoping to receive.

The last five years has been filled with hard work and some truly amazing discoveries. The above story is just one of our many adventures. In our book we outline the history of the Dubrovnik region and its nearby islands. We describe why the Croatians left Croatia and how such a large population ended up in Watsonville. We explain how they developed the apple industry in the Pajaro Valley and what Croatian life and culture was like in Watsonville in the 1920s and '30s. If this piques your interest there is much more to come. Sometime early next year you will receive an announcement (separate from the *Kalifornski* newsletter) regarding the publication of our book. This will be the first book that has been written specifically about Watsonville's Croatians. We are planning a large book-signing event in Watsonville in early spring and hope to see all of you there.

Many thanks to all those who opened your doors and shared your memories and stories with my sister and me.

Puno Hvala!  
Donna F. Mekis  
[dmekis@pacbell.net](mailto:dmekis@pacbell.net)  
831-429-9085







## Our Summer in Croatia 2008

As we enter upon a country in which my parents Pete and Rose Arnerich emigrated from many years ago, I have come to realize that your true roots are within you and make you the person you are today. A sense of coming home sets in your heart as the plane arrives in this beautiful ancient country of CROATIA. The warm feeling you have as you enter onto the ferry to reach your destination of the island of BRAČ, you suddenly find comfort, and relaxation and all your stresses have been left behind. You also feel the presence of your ancestors everywhere you go and it all brings HAPPINESS, LOVE and an ENORMOUS WONDERFUL SMILE.....

18 of us from California traveled to Croatia this past summer to spend the month of July 2008 enjoying the beautiful land. Troy and Juby Jamarillo who reside in Los Gatos along with their 3 children, Son John Jamarillo and wife Amanda and 2 daughters, Natalie (12) and Jacqueline (10) Daughter Janae Cooper and husband Scott and daughter Shelby (9) and son Nolan (7) and son P.J. Jamarillo. Also on the trip were Scott and Lucia Gilbertson (Arnerich-Broyles) whom reside in Oakland. Myself, Mary Arnerich Andrade and my husband Joe along with our daughter Nicole (8) joined our cousins on this wonderful trip. We were also able to see our good friend Slavica Kusanovich Zalac and her daughter Joyce while they were on their vacation to Croatia also. We spent most of our days in Postira, Brač. When we weren't relaxing at the beach or enjoying our wine and cappuccinos at the local café's we would sometimes wonder off to different villages on the island of Brač, (Bol, Supetar, Milna, Dol, Pusicca, and Sutivan). We also spent 3 nights in Dubrovnik and were at the opening of the Summer Festival. Fireworks displayed over the old walled city were OUTSTANDING. We toured Split and the beautiful old palace. We ate and ate and ate the most delicious food in the world and of course enjoyed the many homemade liquors. Our summer in Croatia will always be treasured, as we look back now it almost seemed just like a dream. But thank God it really wasn't. It really did happen and we will never forget it.





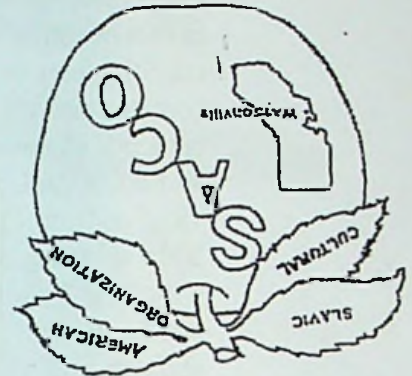


# AUTUMN GREETINGS

DATED MATERIAL - Please Rush

DAMAGED IN HANDLING  
IN THE POSTAL SERVICE

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Watsonville, CA 95077

P.O. Box 226

THE SLAVIC-AMERICAN  
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## ADRIATIC TRAVEL AGENCY

CST # 1013114-10

JELKA BASOR  
Manager

948 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076  
Bus.: (831) 728-7766 / FAX: (831) 728-0379  
e-mail: adriaticjb@aol.com



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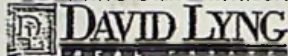
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## KATIE ALAGA-SMITH



55 PENNY LANE, SUITE 102  
WATSONVILLE, CA 95076  
CELL: (831) 334-9500  
OFFICE: (831) 763-6730  
FAX: (831) 763-6701

E-MAIL: KSMITH@DAVIDLYNG.COM  
WWW.KATIEALAGA-SMITH.COM



## DAW PROPERTIES

Real Estate Sales

Spomenka Zaninovich  
Broker Associate

DIRECT: 831-840-5519  
Pajaro Dunes: 831-768-2685  
Fax: 831-763-9730  
e-mail: spomenkaz@yahoo.com



933 Freedom Blvd.  
Watsonville, CA 95076

Ralph Miljanich  
Associate Financial Advisor  
Assistant Branch Manager

716 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

roll-free 800 488 3436  
tel 831 426 4500  
direct 831 457 4358  
fax 831 423 5003  
CA Ins. Lic. # 0A73922



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